

in purely doctrinal matters as Henry the Eighth himself. Henceforth he had no dealings with Wycliffe. It may be that he still used his influence to prevent the arrest of his old ally, and on one occasion he induced the Bishop of Lincoln to commute a sentence of death, pronounced upon a Lollard who had not gone so far as to deny Transubstantiation ;¹ but when two of "Wycliffe's Oxford friends appealed to the Duke for protection, he not only refused to grant it, but * when he had heard their detestable opinion on the Sacrament of the altar he thenceforth held them in hatred/ ² While John of daunt never again approached Wycliffe to obtain his assistance in politics, the reformer, for his part, went on to work for the salvation of England by his own methods, no longer trammelled by an uncongenial alliance.

Wycliffe's position at Oxford was not really so weak as these repudiations made it appear. The Chancellor's decisions against him did not represent the feeling of the seculars. In the last day of May 1381, while bands of outlaws were already assembling in the woods of Kent and Essex to begin the great revolt, the University of Oxford was engaged in electing a new Chancellor for the two coming years.³ The man of their choice was one Eobert Eygge, who represented all the feelings and prejudices of the University proper, and was therefore more favourable to Wycliffe than his predecessor had been. During his term of office Wycliffism became the shibboleth by which the secular party was distinguished from the friars and monks. The Chancellor's own position towards the question was thoroughly Oxonian. Jealousy of the friars, jealousy of episcopal interference with the schools, made him regard Wycliffe as a champion whom Oxford was bound in honour to defend. But he was not a Lollard, and had the year before joined in his predecessor's condemnation of the theses on the Eucharist. Now, however, that he was placed at the head of the University, he allowed these doctrines to be preached in the churches and debated in the lecture-rooms over which he had control,

¹ Knighton, ii. 193 ; *Fasc* -f., 334-40.

² *F'asc*. Z. > 318.

³ *Munimenta Academica Oxon* (B. S.), 106; Mr. Matthew's article, *Eng. Hist. Rev.*, Ap., 1890.